

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03

IO-14 NEA-10 PM-07 NSC-10 DODE-00 DRC-01 AID-20 SAJ-01

/113 W

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R 061251Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2703

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WB, PINS

SUBJECT: SPRINGER APPLICATION FOR GUN PERMIT

1. USCOB HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM AXEL SPRINGER REQUESTING THAT HIS TWO BODYGUARDS BE ISSUED PERMITS TO CARRY GUNS IN WEST BERLIN. AS EMBASSY AWARE, SIMILAR REQUESTS, FROM SPRINGER IN JUNE 1972 AND FROM OTHERS, HAVE BEEN REJECTED ON GROUNDS THAT CONTROL COUNCIL ORDER NO. 2 AND ALLIED LAW 43 PROHIBIT CARRYING OR POSSESSION OF ARMS BY ANY PERSON EXCEPT ALLIED PERSONNEL AND GERMAN POLICE.

2. SPRINGER REQUEST HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH FRENCH AND BRITISH MISSIONS AND WITH BERLIN POLICE, ALL OF WHOM ARE OPPOSED TO AUTHORIZING POSSESSION OF WEAPONS BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, INCLUDING BODYGUARDS.

(USCOB CONFIRMED THIS POSITION WITH POLICE PRESIDENT HUEBNER IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION DECEMBER 5.)

TWO YEARS AGO, AFTER ALLIES BECAME AWARE THAT ONE MILITARY MISSION (YUGOSLAV) POSSESSED WEAPONS FOR PROTECTION OF ITS OWN PERSONNEL, CHAIRMAN PROTOCOL OFFICER CIRCULATED NOTE WHICH RESTATED ALLIED BAN ON ARMS AND AMMUNITION AND CONCLUDED: "UNDER THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRICT CONTROL OF THE SECTOR COMMANDANTS, CERTAIN

SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE HAVE BEEN MADE, CHIEFLY IN FAVOR OF CERTAIN GERMAN OFFICIALS, ON ACCOUNT OF THE NATURE OF THEIR DUTIES, AND IN FAVOR OF APPROVED SPORTING PURPOSES. HOWEVER, ANY POSSESSION OR STORAGE OF ARMS WHICH IS NEITHER WITHIN THE TERMS OF CONTROL COUNCIL ORDER NO. 2 NOR WITHIN ANY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS WOULD BE ILLEGAL." IN MARCH 1973 EL AL DISTRICT MANAGER CALLED ON U.S. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER ON ADVICE OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BONN TO REQUEST GUN PERMIT, BUT APPLICATION WAS REJECTED FOR SAME REASON.

3. LEGAL ARGUMENTS ASIDE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE COULD DEMONSTRATE NEED FOR WEAPONS BECAUSE OF SECURITY PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO SPRINGER'S, AND IF ONE EXCEPTION MADE THERE WOULD BE TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON ALLIES AND SENAT TO AUTHORIZE WEAPONS FOR OTHERS. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO REPLY TO SPRINGER THAT WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED MATTER RAISED IN HIS LETTER AND REGRET TO INFORM HIM THAT WE MUST ABIDE BY PREVIOUS DECISION AND WILL THEREFORE BE UNABLE TO AUTHORIZE, EVEN ON TEMPORARY BASIS, CARRYING OF FIREARMS BY TWO OF HIS EMPLOYEES. WE WOULD ADD THAT WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF POTENTIAL THREAT TO SPRINGER AND HIS ORGANIZATION AND ARE KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON SITUATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH BERLIN POLICE AUTHORITIES.KLEIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, PROTECTIVE SECURITY, GUN CONTROL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <20-Sep-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPRINGER APPLICATION FOR GUN PERMIT  
**TAGS:** PINS, WB  
**To:** BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005